

**CLAIMS:**

**What is claimed is:**

- 5 1. An arc discharge lamp comprising:  
an arc chamber;  
an amalgam tip attached to and communicating with said arc chamber through a  
constricted area;  
an amalgam retainer in said arc chamber abutted against said constricted area, said  
10 amalgam retainer being vibration-insensitive, solid and liquid amalgam impervious and  
mercury vapor pervious; and  
an amalgam contained within said amalgam tip.
- 15 2. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 1 wherein said amalgam retainer comprises a  
ceramic felt.
3. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 2 wherein said ceramic felt is comprised of fibers of  
mixed aluminum and silicon oxides.
- 20 4. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 3 wherein said fibers have a diameter of <10  
microns.
5. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 4 wherein said lamp is a low pressure discharge  
lamp.
- 25 6. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 5 wherein said amalgam includes bismuth and  
indium.
7. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 5 wherein said amalgam tip has a given diameter  
30 and said amalgam retainer, prior to insertion, has a larger diameter.